

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

v. :  
MARTIN HODGE, :  
Defendant. :  
-----x

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DATE FILED: 6/3/2020

**ORDER**

19 CR 219 (VB)

**Sentencing in this case is rescheduled for June 12, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. (which needed to be changed from 2:30 p.m. due to new scheduling protocols at the Metropolitan Correctional Center).**

Rule 43(a)(3) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ordinarily requires the defendant's physical presence at sentencing. During the current national public health emergency, however, under Section 15002(b)(2)(A) and (b)(4) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act, the Court is empowered to conduct a sentencing by videoconference (or telephone conference if videoconferencing is not reasonably available) if (i) the defendant consents after consultation with counsel, and (ii) the Court finds "for specific reasons" that the "sentencing . . . cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice."

The Court expects to conduct the sentencing hearing by videoconference (or by telephone conference if videoconferencing is not reasonably available), and, based on defense counsel's submission dated June 1, 2020, is prepared to find, in accordance with the CARES Act, that sentencing cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. The Court will arrange for the sentencing hearing to proceed by videoconference (or by telephone conference if videoconferencing is not reasonably available). The proceeding will be conducted through CourtCall. In advance of the sentencing, Chambers will email all counsel with further information on how to access the conference. Those participating by video will be provided a link to be pasted into their web browser. **The link is non-transferrable and can be used by only one person; further, it should be used only at the time of the conference because using it earlier could result in disruptions to other proceedings.** To optimize the quality of the video feed, only the Court, defendant, defense counsel, and counsel for the government will appear by video for the proceeding; all others will participate by telephone. Due to the limited capacity of the CourtCall system, only one counsel per party may participate. Co-counsel, members of the press, and the public may access the audio feed of the conference by calling 855-268-7844 and using access code 32091812# and PIN 9921299#.

2. To optimize use of the CourtCall technology, all those participating by video should:

- a. Use the most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, or Safari as the web browser. Do **not** use Internet Explorer.
  - b. Use hard-wired internet or WiFi. If using WiFi, the device should be positioned as close to the Wi-Fi router as possible to ensure a strong signal. (Weak signals may cause delays or dropped feeds.)
  - c. Minimize the number of others using the same WiFi router during the conference.
3. If CourtCall does not work well enough and the Court decides to transition to its teleconference line, counsel and defendant should call **(888) 363-4749 (toll free) or (215) 446-3662** and use Access Code **1703567**. (Members of the press and public may call the same number but will not be permitted to speak during the conference.)

4. **Defendant's sentencing submission is due June 3, 2020, and the government's sentencing submission is due June 9, 2020.**

Dated: June 3, 2020  
White Plains, NY

SO ORDERED:



Vincent L. Briccetti  
United States District Judge